

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FUNDING AWARDED TO SUPPORT 0-to-5 CHILDRENS' ZONE
IN PROPOSED SHASTA COUNTY LIBRARY**

Redding, Calif.-----On April 24th, the Shasta Children and Families First Commission (SCFFC) pledged to award \$150,000 over the next five years to New Library Now! This funding will insure the inclusion of a "0-to-5 zone" in the children's area of the proposed new Shasta County library. Final commitment to this award is contingent upon the success of a grant application being submitted by the city and county to the State of California for library bonds provided by Proposition 14.

"We are contributing to creating a safe and child-friendly library environment that will be designed specifically to meet the needs of young children," said Muffy Berryhill, Executive Director of the Shasta Commission. The new library will offer eleven times more space than exists in the current library for a dedicated childrens' area. A good portion of that area will serve as a 0-to-5 zone, including a storytime area, a large picture book area, comfortable seating for parents and children reading together, as well as size appropriate tables and seating for toddlers and young children.

This grant award complements the Family Place Library program funded by SCFFC and already in place at the Shasta County Library and library branches in Anderson and Burney. The Family Place Library integrates a center for early childhood information, parent education, literacy and family support into the library setting. Both the new library area for young children and the Family Place Library program support the SCFFC commitment to improving language acquisition and family literacy.

The Shasta Children and Families First Commission is funded by Proposition 10, enacted by California voters in November 1998, creating the *California Children and Families* program. Prop 10 revenues are generated from a state tax on tobacco products to fund the expansion and development of programs for children in the prenatal stage to five years of age. Shasta County receives approximately \$1.8 million annually in Prop 10 revenues.

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